Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 009064

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ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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P 142255Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

INFO CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

CINCPACFLT PRIORITY

CNO PRIORITY

COMSEVENTHFLT PRIORITY

CINCLANTFLT PRIORITY

CSAF WASHDC PRIORITY

DET 4 AFSCF MAHE ISLAND SEYCHELLES PRIORITY

USDAO LONDON PRIORITY

USCINCEUR

SECRETSTATE 009064

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:MPOL, XO, SE, UK

SUBJECT: PORT VISITS TO SEYCHELLES FOR USS LONG BEACH

AND USS CAMDEN

REFS: (A) DET 4 AFSCF MAHE IS. SEYCHELLES 130940Z JAN 75; (B) CINCUSNAVEUR 141040Z JAN 75 (NOTAL); (C) CINCPACFLT 140713Z JAN 75 (NOTAL).

1. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS RAISED WITH WILBERFORCE OF THE SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 009064

BRITISH EMBASSY OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE SEYCHELLES DEPUTY

GOVERNOR'S DENIAL OF OUR REQUEST FOR THE VISITS OF USS LONG BEACH (CGN-9) AND USS CAMDEN (ADE-2) TO PORT VICTORIA IN THE SEYCHELLES DURING THE PERIOD 5-7 AND 7-9 FEBRUARY RESPECTIVELY.

2. WE EMPHASIZED THAT DEPUTY GOVERNOR'S REPLY (REF A) SUGGESTED THAT PROBLEM WITH VISIT LAY IN THE NPW AREA (LONG BEACH IS NUCLEAR-POWERED) AND THAT THIS WAS DISTURBING ON GROUNDS BOTH OF PRINCIPLE AND OF PRESSING OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PORT CALLS FOR USN SHIPS NOW DEPLOYED IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. WE INDICATED WE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE MATTER MAY HAVE BEEN EXPLORED INFORMALLY BETWEEN USNAVEUR AND ROYAL NAVY THIS MORNING (REF B) BUT THAT WE WISHED, BY DISCUSSING THE MATTER FORMALLY WITH BRITISH EMBASSY HERE, TO

RAISE OUR CONCERNS TO THE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT LEVEL AND TO EXPRESS OUR HOPE THAT HMG WOULD FIND IT POSSIBLE TO RECONSIDER THE MATTER.

3. WILBERFORCE INDICATED SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF OUR PROBLEM. HE SAID HE HAD JUST LEARNED OF THE TURN-DOWN FROM THE MILITARY SIDE OF THE BRITISH EMBASSY HERE, THAT HE KNEW NOTHING MORE THAN WE HAD TOLD HIM, BUT THAT HE WOULD PROMPTLY PUT THE MATTER -- AND OUR REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION -- TO THE FCO IN LONDON. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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